

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace lines 2-8 on page 8 with the following amended lines:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a simplified center pivot irrigation system utilizing mobile support structures to support an elevated boom, according to the prior art.

Figure 2 is a partial ~~plan~~ front view of a mobile support structure with a tire assembly of ~~the present invention~~ according to the prior art.

Figure 3 is a front view of the tire assembly ~~of the present invention~~ according to the prior art.

Figure 4 is a side view of the tire assembly ~~of the present invention~~ according to the prior art.

Figure 5 is a side view of the flexible belt in a flat condition according to the prior art.

Please replace lines 11-13 on page 12 with the following amended lines:

Outer surface 44 of belt 32 includes a plurality of ~~cleat~~ traction elements that substantially extend across the width of belt 32 as best seen in Fig. 3. The traction elements shown are cleat Cleat elements 46, which may be in the form of channel iron having side walls 48 extending

Please add the following new paragraph after line 11 on page 13:

In general, a mobile irrigation system has an elongate boom and a plurality of downwardly extending towers, each connecting to a wheel assembly. According to the inventive subject matter, a wheel assembly includes a support frame and a tire assembly. A tire assembly is defined as having one or more wheels and an associated axle. The support frame supports the assembly on opposite sides so as to distribute weight from the tower structure across the opposite sides of the tire assembly. The opposite side of the tire assembly refers to the opposite

sides of the axle that connects one or more tires. The axle may be formed as a single unit or as multiple mechanically coupled units associated with the tires. The wheel assembly may be coupled, either permanently or removably, to a tower structure. A tire assembly may include an optional flexible member and traction elements (e.g., belt 32 and traction elements 46).

Please replace lines 12-21 on page 13 with the following amended lines:

Figures 6-8 show a support frame 60 for tire assembly 24. Support frame 60 is removably connected to and supported by horizontal tube member 62 of tower 16 by a force transfer member. The force transfer member shown is a force transferring support plate 64. Support plate 64 may be welded or otherwise secured to an attachment plate 66 to which gear box 23 is secured through outer plate 65 by bolts or fasteners 67. Tire assembly 24 may be supported by horizontal support members, namely a first support member 68, a third support member 72, 68 and 72 and a vertical or second support member 74. These support members may, in combination with springs, provide for a connection that is adjustable in both vertical and horizontal directions between tower 16 and tire assembly 24. This adjustability feature of the support frame allows the frame to be retrofitted for a variety of irrigation systems having different tire assemblies, and a variety of field circumstances, such as compensating for unevenness in the terrain.

As shown in Fig. 6 the support members may create a support frame that has substantially a U-shape. Preferably, horizontal Horizontal members 68 and 72 may provide for horizontal adjustment by have a telescoping connection and may be secured by a bolt 75 or other suitable fastener. This telescoping connection provides for horizontal adjustment of support frame 60 to accommodate various sizes of tires. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 7, member 68 telescopically receives member 72 and may be welded or otherwise

Please replace line 18 on page 14 with the following amended lines:

across which tire assembly 24 travels. The support frame has the first support member coupled to the second support member, such that the weight of the tower is distributed substantially equally across opposite sides of the tire assembly. Vertical support 74 supports an extended axle

Please replace lines 5-8 on page 15 with the following amended lines:

Figures 9 and 10 show a detail of a force transfer member that is adjustably mounted to the tower structure. As shown, the force transfer member is support plate 64. There is an preferred adjustable connection between horizontal tube member 62 and support plate 64. As shown, a [[A]] bracket or vertical plate 90 may be welded or otherwise secured to horizontal tube member 62. The adjustable mounting of the force transfer member to the tower structure may be provided by support Support plate 64, which is removably connected to bracket 90 by bolts 92 or any suitable fasteners extending through